

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
MIDLAND/ODESSA DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	Case No. 7:22-CR-00154-DC
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
vs.)	
)	
RAYMOND CHARLES JR.,)	
)	
Defendant.)	Thursday, July 12, 2022
_____)	9:55 A.M.

TRANSCRIPT OF INITIAL APPEARANCE
BEFORE THE HONORABLE RONALD C. GRIFFIN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Deputy Clerk: Monica Ramirez
United States District Court
200 East Wall Street, Room 222
Midland, Texas 79701

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Midland, Texas - Thursday, July 14, 2022

(9:55 a.m.)

P R O C E E D I N G S

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THE CLERK: The Court calls MO:22-MJ-184, the United States of America versus Raymond Charles Jr.

THE COURT: Good morning. Mr. Charles.

THE DEFENDANT: Good morning.

THE COURT: What we're going to do this morning is an initial appearance with you in your case. This will not take long. But I need to go over some things with you. I need to go over the charge you're facing here in court. I'll go over and make sure you've got the right paperwork that goes with everything.

The marshals are going to pick that paperwork up. You'll get it back and you'll have time to review it after we get through this morning because I'm going to switch gears. I'm going to talk to you about the -- I want to make sure you understand the punishment range you're looking at if you get convicted.

Then we're going to talk about a lawyer. If you can't afford one, I'm going to appoint you a lawyer, set your case for a couple of hearings. I'll go over generally what those are about and when they're going to happen. I'll go over some rights you have and make sure you understand your rights. And that's all we're going to do this morning.

1 I don't want to get into whether you're guilty. I
2 don't want you to say anything that's incriminating. That's
3 not the point. It's really just to make sure you understand
4 the charge, what you're looking at if you get convicted, and
5 get you a lawyer and then get your case set for some other
6 hearings. Okay? Make sense?

7 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

8 THE COURT: All right. If you'll raise your right
9 hand, she's going to swear you in real quick. And then we'll
10 cover those topics and I'll get you back on your way. Okay?

11 RAYMOND CHARLES JR., DEFENDANT, SWORN

12 THE COURT: You can put your hand down, Mr. Charles.
13 Take that paperwork -- well, first of all, any condition or
14 any medicine you're on that might make it difficult to
15 understand what we're doing?

16 THE DEFENDANT: No, sir.

17 THE COURT: Okay. Take that paperwork. Turn that
18 over for me please, sir. And first thing I want to do is make
19 sure your name is spelled correctly there. Raymond Charles
20 Jr. Is that spelled correctly?

21 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

22 THE COURT: All right. Here's what you're charged
23 with. I'm going to start with that second sentence down
24 there. On or about the date of July 1st, 2022, in Ector
25 County, in the Western District of Texas, charge is you

1 violated Title 18 United States Code Section 922(g)(1). As
2 simple as I can put it, the charge is that you're a felon and
3 you possessed a firearm. Okay? Do you understand the charge?

4 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

5 THE COURT: If you go to the next page, there should
6 be an affidavit there from a detective named Nicholas Moore
7 (phonetic) with OPD. Do you have that affidavit?

8 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

9 THE COURT: All right. The marshals are going to
10 pick that up. They're going to give that back to you, okay?
11 You're going to get it back and you can read it as much as you
12 want. Okay?

13 THE DEFENDANT: All right.

14 THE COURT: Here's the punishment range you face if
15 convicted. You face a term of imprisonment not to exceed ten
16 years. So it's anywhere from zero to ten years is the range
17 of imprisonment. You face a term of supervised release not to
18 exceed three years. So it's zero to three years on the
19 supervised release range. Fine not to exceed \$250,000 and a
20 \$100 special assessment.

21 Do you understand that range of punishment?

22 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

23 THE COURT: Okay. You're entitled to have a lawyer
24 represent you. If you can't afford one, I'll appoint one for
25 you. Can you afford a lawyer?

1 THE DEFENDANT: No, sir.

2 THE COURT: Were you working anywhere when you got
3 arrested?

4 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

5 THE COURT: What kind of job do you have?

6 THE DEFENDANT: I was working for Caserca (phonetic)
7 oil field company.

8 THE COURT: What kind of job? What were you doing
9 for them?

10 THE DEFENDANT: I was, like, it was, like, a rental.
11 It's like a third-party oil field company. We go out and do
12 rig wells, roustabout, pieholing, pig cleaning --

13 THE COURT: Okay.

14 THE DEFENDANT: -- et cetera. Yes, sir.

15 THE COURT: How long had you had that job with them?

16 THE DEFENDANT: Approximately about seven months.

17 THE COURT: Okay. What kind of money were you
18 making with them? On a monthly basis, what are you taking
19 home?

20 THE DEFENDANT: About five grand a month.

21 THE COURT: Okay. And out of that five grand, are
22 you having to pay rent, you're paying groceries, you're paying
23 cell phone, cars.

24 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

25 THE COURT: What's left over; anything?

1 THE DEFENDANT: Give and take, maybe a few hundred.

2 THE COURT: Okay.

3 THE DEFENDANT: I got eight kids; you know what I
4 mean.

5 THE COURT: Eight kids?

6 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

7 THE COURT: Good lord.

8 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

9 THE COURT: All right. Yeah. All right. So eight
10 kids, and then \$5,000 a month. You ain't got nothing left at
11 the end. Right? Fair?

12 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

13 THE COURT: All right. I'm going to make a finding
14 that you qualify for court-appointed counsel. I'm going to
15 appoint the Federal Public Defender. Okay? The Federal
16 Public Defender's Office here in Midland is going to represent
17 you, Mr. Charles. Okay?

18 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

19 THE COURT: So we got you a lawyer now. I'm going
20 to set your case for a couple hearings. You're entitled to
21 have a probable cause hearing with me, and you're entitled to
22 have a detention hearing. That's a bond hearing. Okay? And
23 I'm going to set those hearings for July 19th at 9:00 a.m.
24 July 19th at 9:00 a.m.

25 Your lawyer -- I don't know, there's two lawyers at

1 the Public Defender's Office. I don't know who's on duty
2 today. It's either going to be Anthony Colton or John
3 Velasquez. But one of those two is going to get your case.
4 They'll talk to you before the 19th and go over what to
5 expect.

6 You may end up waiving these hearings, or you may
7 end up having them. It's going to be up to you after you talk
8 to your lawyer. But if you have them, I'll have a probable
9 cause hearing and I'll have a bond hearing on the 19th at
10 nine, okay?

11 THE DEFENDANT: Okay.

12 THE COURT: Now before that hearing, you're going to
13 get a call from a pretrial officer. This is a pretrial
14 officer at this table. And there -- we have others, too. I
15 don't know which one's going to call you, but you're going to
16 get a call out at Haskell and they're going to ask you a bunch
17 of questions because they prepare a report for me. It's a
18 pretrial report. And I use that, to a certain extent, in
19 making a decision on whether to give you a bond or not. Okay?

20 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

21 THE COURT: Any questions so far?

22 THE DEFENDANT: No, sir.

23 THE COURT: All right. You have a right to remain
24 silent. Anything you say can be used against you. If you've
25 said anything to anybody about your case, you don't have to

1 say anything else. You have a right to have your lawyer
2 present with you during any questioning.

3 Do you understand those rights?

4 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

5 THE COURT: All right. Any questions?

6 THE DEFENDANT: No, sir.

7 THE COURT: All right. You're remanded to the
8 custody of the United States Marshals. I'll see you back on
9 the 19th, sir. Thank you.

10 THE DEFENDANT: Thank you.

11 (Proceedings adjourned at 10:00 a.m.)

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14 **C E R T I F I C A T E**

15 I, DIPTI PATEL, court-approved transcriber, certify that
16 the foregoing is a correct transcript from the official
17 electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-
18 entitled matter.

19
20 
21

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Date: April 10, 2023